

Masterman

SAILOR'S LETTERS.

WRITTEN TO HIS
SELECT FRIENDS IN ENGLAND,
DURING HIS
VOYAGES AND TRAVELS

I N
EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, AND AMERICA,
FROM THE YEAR 1754 TO 1759.

B Y
MR. T H O M P S O N.

IN TWO VOLUMES. *R*

VOL. I.

THE SECOND EDITION, CORRECTED.

L O N D O N:

Printed for T. BECKET and P. A. DE HONDT,
in the Strand; W. FLEXNEY, in Holbourn; and
C. MORAN, in Covent-Garden.

MDCCLXVII.



T O
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE EARL OF EGMONT,
VISCOUNT PERCIVAL OF KANTURK,
LORD LOVEL, AND HOLLAND
OF ENMORE;
FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY,
F. R. S. &c. &c.

These Letters are, with the most profound respect,
inscribed,

By his Lordship's

Most obedient,

Most devoted,

Humble Servant,

EDWARD THOMPSON. 



PROLEGOMENA.

PROSE Preface precedes books in verse,
As mutes parade before a hearse :
But here, to change the mode I chose
With rhyme to introduce my prose.
At BATH, thus *Derrick*, the poetical,
Leads out in minuet geometrical.
So flow'ry Prologues strew the way,
And help sometimes a heavy play.
If this should have that good effect,
And save my Bark from being wreck'd ;
Or should the truths amuse an hour
Some HELEN under some sweet bower ;

Or save a youth first bound to sea,
 From that fell rock, low company !
 They'll answer ev'ry wish'd intent,
 The POET and the *Sailor* meant.

And now in form let me proceed,
 And tell the reader, what he'll read.

DE FOE, the trav'ler of his time,
 Form'd *Crusoe* and a fav'rite clime ;
 Which fancy oft in days of yore
 Had sought, but never found before.
 SWIFT caught the flame,--and with more ease,
 Rais'd wonders as he cross'd the seas :
 Language he gave a forrel nag,
 And giants form'd for *Brobdingnag*.
 All Lilliput was made by Swift,—
Truth was the Dean's peculiar gift.—
 But here you'll find, as strange as true,
 The Author and the *Sailor* too.—

To

To this, from injur'd RALEIGH's time,
 Few tars have writ in prose or rhyme.—
 A *Guinea-pig*, I first was ta'en,
 And far as *India* cut the main.
 (A 'prenticeship to make a tar ;)
 Next press'd on board of man of war :
 Where I, (unknown at any college,)
 Studied sev'n years, and got no knowlege :
 Nay, what is more surprizing still,
 At Hampstead bred,—not Pindus' Hill.
 Ne'er by the *Muses* honoured yet,
 To drink Bohea, or play piquet ;
 Ne'er sung with VIRGIL epic lays,
 Nor laugh'd with MARTIAL nights and days :
 With HORACE ne'er was ask'd to dine,
 Or taste his pure Falernian wine :
 Nor upon OVID cast an eye,
 Tho' he *lov'd Love* as well as I :
 Ne'er swam to HERO with LEANDER,
 Nor play'd with TERENCE or MENANDER :

And yet I've had a wond'rous scope,—

But all beyond the *Cape of Hope*.

When I describe a little man,

Him I have seen in *Indoſtan* ;

Or tell of monſters, large or ſmall,

Behold the natives of *Bengal* !

A *burning Wife* may raiſe your grief,

Or ſtagger for a time belief ;—

Truth will in all the facts agree,

So *Utrum mavis,—accipe*.

'Tis no ſurprize—a drowned woman

Above bridge and below is common.

The elephant, ſagacious creature,

May raiſe ſurprize in every feature ;

Although Dan POPE, half reas'ning terms it,

And *Biſhop Warburton* confirms it ;

Wiſdom you muſt allow the beaſt.—

Ay, half as much as bard or prieſt.

The ſtone at top of mount *Hammamell*,

Perhaps you'll call or whale or camel ;

Think

Think as you will—but if you doubt,
The place itself will point it out.

My Muse, a *Will-o'-Whisp* will seem
To you, who wander but in dream :
In Indian climes you find her first,
Panting, poor wench ! quite choak'd with thirst ;
Then, like a bird of passage, stems
The air, and swims the river Ems :
Next with new pinions she defies
Those storms that cloud the western skies.
Quick to AMERICA she wings,
And of TOBAGO's hermit sings.
Then whirling with this whirling ball,
Laments o'er LISBON's dreadful fall.

Readers ! these trips call what you please,
When very young, she cross'd the seas.
Forgive, my friends, the Muse's youth,
She never leaps the bounds of truth !

(x)

If prose and rhyme, alas! should jar,
She's half a poet, half a tar.
Half fish, half flesh, e'en what you will,—
Bred to the *Bow-lines*, not the *Quill*.
Should ye not find some pleasing letter,
Pity the tar, and wish them better.
For it was never known before,
That Miss THALIA trowsers wore.

* * * * *

* * * * * Cetera desiderantur.

14 NO 3

LET-

L E T T E R S.

L E T T E R I.

To H. M. Esq;

At sea, April, 1754.

AFTER a melancholy tedious confinement to sky and water, the eye is at last eased with the sight of a ship bound to you, and though a structure of a similar appearance, yet it affords some relief, and much pleasure, as it may be the happy means of this reaching your hands.

hands. Till this, sir, the abilities and experience of age never appeared clearly to me to be superior to youth—I now distinctly see where I was partial and opiniated, and when I ought to have embraced your advice, where I rejected it. I've often wondered to myself how you came by that perfect knowledge of a sea-life, for although in theory, yet described in so lively a manner, to equal the most horrid parts of practice—But alas! dear sir, it is in vain to repent; I must go on, though your descriptions of *doubling the Cape*, are enough just now to damp that, which, over a winter's fire, served only to stir a passion I could wish had ever been dormant. But hitherto, our passage has been tolerable, though boisterous,—but pleasant, when

when a man can think like a seaman, that his greatest blessing is a fair wind. But surely great allowance must be made for such extravagancies of thought, when every hope of a sailor hangs on the wings of the wind.—Nothing can load them with that dejection of spirit as a still calm, and calms are sometimes in these southern latitudes so tedious, as even to occasion a putrefaction of the sea. In these times, when every thing seems to lose motion with the air, the ships are generally visited by sharks. The taking one of these monsters has been the unhappy occasion of one of the most terrible scenes I ever beheld.—Miss H. a young lady of beauty, virtue, and good sense, going to Bombay, and betrothed by her parents in Eng-
land

land to a gentleman of the council in India, too eagerly beholding one of these creatures out of her cabin window, fell over-board and was drowned: tho' all immediate assistance was given, yet every endeavour was in vain to save this amiable lady, who perished in an unnatural element, though serene and calm. The fright must certainly have killed her from the horror of the monster, for it was not the fifth part of a minute before she was taken up. The sorrows on this unhappy occasion are general and great—and mine, alas! almost insupportable from the affection and friendship I bore this dear young creature—though neither my youth or situation could entitle me to the least share of her esteem. So universal a grief never appeared

amongst one set of people, a people
 I thought unfeeling till this — But, alas!
 they seem emulous to lament her fate.
 Had he known her, what retaliation
 could fortune and the world have made
 the man for whom she was designed!
 In this he is happy, in not knowing the
 sweetest, fairest creature nature ever
 framed. Whenever I see him, I will
 paint her virtues so lively, he shall grieve
 he did not know her — I that I ever did,
 you that you have so unhappy a friend as
 Your —, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R II.

To H. M. Esq;

Madrafs, July 7, 1754.

OUR passage to this place has been quick, not exceeding four months from our leaving England; but, tho' deemed a short one, of sufficient length to make me weary of sky and water. I never felt so pleasing a sensation as on my first beholding the island of *Zeylon*, where all the sweetest beauties of nature are collected for the recreation of mankind. I do assure you I am no ways partial to this lovely spot, though, from its appearance and situation, I believe the natives

tives would find it an easy matter to persuade me it was the original Paradise. The *Zeylones* boast of their antiquity, and they make use of a strong argument from record in behalf of this opinion; they produce the mountain called Adam's Peek, upon which they pretend are many inscriptions on stone, to confirm all their assertions. 'Tis a journey, I must own, I was never ambitious of taking, and the principal means of their supporting this argument; but, at present, give me leave to pass it at sea; and, in another letter, I promise you shall have their sentiments on this terrestrial paradise. In passing this island, 'tis impossible for you to conceive how the fragrance of the land-breeze revives our scurvy spirits. But the seamen, who are

ever extravagant in their opinions, declare they have smelt it before they saw it; and that dogs, in approaching the land, give strong indications of the proximity. I must own I cannot boast of so canine a nose, being till this troubled with a polypus, which is entirely removed by the warmth of these southern latitudes. I have smelt this land fifteen leagues, but no other in the world, which may be attributed to the aromatic shrubs and trees which abound here: but there is yet a stronger argument in favour of the fragrance of the air, the Dutch being permitted to export annually a limited quantity of cinnamon and other spices, they burn the residue, which is afterwards thrown into the sea, where it covers the surface, for leagues,

leagues, like tanner's bark. One would imagine Milton had met with something similar to this place, in his travels into Italy: and tho' he has said more upon it than any man did before or since, yet it falls vastly short of its beauties.

———“ Now gentle gales,
 “ Fanning their odoriferous wings, dispense
 “ Native perfumes, and whisper whence they
 “ stole [sail
 “ Those balmy spoils. As when to them who
 “ Beyond *the Cape of Hope*, and now are past
 “ *Mozambic*, oft at sea north-east winds blow
 “ *Sabæan* odor, from the spicy shore
 “ Of *Araby* the blest, with such delay
 “ Well pleas'd they slack their course, and
 “ many a league [smiles.
 “ Chear'd with the grateful smell old ocean

Notwithstanding this island lies so near the continent of India, and is so abundantly fruitful in every thing, and crowned with eternal verdure; yet the main is a steril, sandy soil. Madrafs is our principal settlement on the coast of Coromandel, and is situated about three hundred paces from the sea, in the latitude of thirteen degrees north. It is by much the most healthful place we possess in this part of India, and defended by a fortification inferior to few in Europe. The town is regularly built; the houses airy and elegant; the streets spacious and well paved; but only inhabited by Europeans: the natives, being pagans, after their daily labour, retire to their clay huts, about a mile from the walls. There is a good church with an organ,

organ, tho' a little prayer goes a long way with the English here. There are also public gardens, where the ladies and gentlemen repair in an evening in their palanquins; an indolent method of travelling; but well adapted to the climate, and the vassalage of the east. They are much like our sedans, only poles at each end instead of the sides, which four men support on their shoulders. If this oriental pomp could be conveyed to London, or the ladies of fashion conveyed here (without that disagreeable circumstance of doubling the Cape, or passing the more dreadful deserts of Persia and Arabia) Bath and Scarborough would be entirely neglected for the pomp and serenity of these climes. They would only lay under the

obligation of bringing their music; for what they call music here, is only the confused jumble of a number of instruments, its noise being its excellence; for every performer seems emulous to be the loudest, as much as I am to be

Your humble servant,

&c. &c. &c.

LET-

L E T T E R III.

To Mr. L*.

Madrafs, July 8, 1754.

AMONGST all the historical passages you have read, and the many tours you have made to the different parts of the world, I don't think you ever met any thing half so astonishing as the superstition of these people: tho' blessed with the liveliest natural parts, they are guilty of the most surprizing absurdities, and all under the specious name of religion. The inhabitants of this coast are chiefly pagans, of the *Jento* cast, who strictly believe in the doctrine of trans-

B 4 migration;

migration; maintaining, that the human soul passes from one degree of being to another, and continually actuates some organised body for a certain revolution of years (supposing its sin to be expiated) and then joins the blessed in eternal bliss. The Bramins, or Brachmans, called by the antients gymnosophists, from going naked, living in solitude, and feeding on vegetables; by whom Pythagoras was taught the opinion of the metempsychosis, which opinion they rigidly adhere to and practise. In every town there are different degrees of these Bramins, their fame depending on their austerities and the rigid performance of their vows, tho', in fact, they are divided into two classes; the first voluntarily retire to woods and deserts,

parts, to study nature and astronomy; the second live in the world to admonish princes, direct the state, and teach religion and morality to the people. No man sets out on a journey without the advice of the Magi, and till they declare it a fortunate hour, the journey is postponed, tho' ever so material; and things of less moment, in common domestic affairs, are never executed without the knowledge of the Bramin. These divines are distinguished by streaks of paint across their foreheads, and strings of packthread round their necks; but, above all, a piece of muslin covers the mouth to prevent insects being destroyed by flying in, by which they might untimely destroy a parent in a fly, before he had worked his expiation in
that

that body, or the God of nature meant his death. These Bramins are great astrologers and diviners; and, from the same they had acquired, I rose one morning early with a friend, to be convinced of that which wore greatly the air of improbability. We found the philosopher in a little thatched clay hut, in the midst of a grove of Tamarind trees, absorbed in study: for the Bramins have still by them some books of great antiquity, their principal attention being paid to the calculation of eclipses, in which they are remarkably exact; and, to preserve this favourite knowledge, they have a large university at Bonarez, where the most refined wits are *conjurers*; a quality, which few wits in Europe are blessed with. As soon as he observed

observed us, he arose from his mat on the floor, saluted us with the *selam* (which is raising both hands to the head) adding *grabenemcos*, be it to ye according to the prayers of the poor. He was a majestic venerable old man; his complexion jet black, with a long snowy beard; his dress light, and adapted to the climate. We told him our errand, which he received with a smile; and, speaking distinctly the English language, said, “ *about eight moons pass’d,—in your own country,—on the top of a mountain, you had a fever.* He then paused; and, looking attentively on my face and right hand, added; “ *twenty and two moons elapsed, a virgin died that had your first love.* Guess my surprize! he would have proceeded; but Shakespear’s Fairy-land coming quick to my

my memory, made me withdraw, to reflect on what was minutely true, both in regard to time and circumstance. I dare say, you'll immediately thank my companion for this joke; but that is easily removed, when I assure you he was a stranger to me. So if you do not admire the art of my fortuneteller, it will serve you to laugh at the credulity of

Your's, &c.

L E T.

L E T T E R IV.

To L. L. Esq;

Madrafs, July 10, 1754.

TWO letters, from one place, are certainly more than you are entitled to; but as one was full of pagan idolatry, the other shall treat of some Christianity; although, amongst the natives, there are barely vestiges sufficient to entitle it to the very name. About three miles from this city, over a burning sand, is a small eminence called Saint Thomas's Mount, where that apostle obtained leave, after performing many miracles, to erect a church, and preach the doctrine of Christ.

Christ. Amongst a number of things equally miraculous, this is mentioned: A large piece of timber lying across the mouth of the harbour of *Meliapour*, and obstructing the navigation of vessels,—the apostle, by fastening his girdle to it, drew it away, though a number of elephants had been ineffectually employed before: upon which conviction, *Sagamo*, the reigning king, became (with many thousands) a convert to the Christian religion. The Bramins finding Saint Thomas succeed in his new doctrine, and fearing he should in time extirpate them, and their religion, came to a resolution to murder him; which they inhumanly did when at his devotions in the chapel: his body was interred in the church,

church, and afterwards taken up by the Portuguese, where by it was found *Sagamo's*, and both were moved to the city of *Goa*, in the reign of *John* the third of Portugal! where an elegant church is erected to their memories, and dedicated to the disciple.

Meliapour (which was then the metropolis of that part of India) hath scarce a stone left to declare where it stood; a few inhabitants and huts continue the name, tho' the very river is dried which occasioned the miracle. There are many things related of this apostle by the Portuguese, since their first arrival in India, which have been variously repeated from time to time; besides a number of crosses have been found, perpetual lamps, inscriptions
on

on brass, &c. but the superstition of these catholicks, joined to the various priest-crafts they perform, make them as little to be depended on, as the untutored Indians. You must laugh with me at the perpetual lamps in Saint Thomas's tomb, being a very inferior piece of legerdemain to that daily practised in the Roman churches. The chief religion of the Mussulmans consists in their lamps, which have been known to burn for ages; but it would be more surprising to have them go out than continue, when we are acquainted people are deputed to refresh and attend them. This is not inferior to a juggle amongst the priests of the lower sect,—who denounce them cursed if they neglect bringing victuals for
the

the support of their idols—which idols never feed publickly, tho' served with the daintiest cates;—but the abstinent priest, who, like his followers, is supposed to subsist on vegetables, regales himself with his wooden god, at the expence of their viands and credulity. You see, my dear friend, in all states, potentates, and principalities,—there is more or less hocus-pocus in religion.

That Saint Thomas did preach in India, we have no reason to doubt, and that he was murdered there, seems very evident,—but whether really moved from *Meliapour* to *Goa*, I cannot affirm; for they shew you the remains of his church at the former, and swear to his tomb at the latter: but when we find some thousands of Christian

pilgrims, annually travelling through India to *Edeffa* in *Mesopotamia*, to pay homage to his remains, it prevents me fixing the place of his interment, which perhaps you may settle in your more attentive speculations. I must own an accidental discovery I made by being frequently with the younger Bramins, gives me strong reasons to think the New Testament has been preached amongst them, and is still handed down in their devotions. Whenever they meet to smoak the *kubble-bubble* *, they

* Is certainly in these hot climates an improvement of the pipe, containing a pint of water, which makes the smoak come cool to the mouth: the lower part is composed of cocoa nut, upon which is erected a reed of half a foot in length,—on the top of which in an earthen bowl is deposited the fire: they smoak a variety of leaves and
woods,

introduce a kind of religious singing with their conversation, and often hearing the subsequent words repeated, I begged a translation of them :

Radie Vistnou gouvendai.

Pedebolai anundai.

O ! Radie, O !——

woods, but no tobacco.—From the vessel wherein the water is held projects a long tube,—some made of cane, others of leather, covered with velvet, adorned with gold, many yards long, the part for the mouth being agate of great value.—The elegance of the hubble-bubble, is a great piece of Indostan foppery ; — it has a pompous appearance, is generally brought in after dinner—and placed at a considerable distance from the master of the house, who has the agate pipe on the tube handed him.—We find it in many nations a mark of friendship to smoak out of one pipe ;—here it is greatly observed, but with more solemnity amongst the American savages, who absolutely *ratify a peace with a whiff of tobacco.*

which is literally, "God give us this day our daily bread."—From this one would imagine they had more lights than pagan, and yet the rest of their idolatries confound all the reason, patience, and common sense of

Your —

LET-

L E T T E R V.

To H. M. Esq;

Madras, July 27, 1754.

THIS city makes a most elegant appearance to the sea, nor is it stronger in appearance than reality; for it certainly is a most redoubtable fortification; — the coming on shore is only practicable in the *mussallers*, boats built of a thin wood, which yield when thrown on the shore by the force of the sea; for here is always a large surf which rises thirty feet perpendicular from the surface of the water, and often beats over the walls to the centre of

the town : in such heavy seas as these, boats of a firm heavy construction like ours would be dashed to pieces.—It requires some dexterity to steer on these occasions, of which the natives are perfectly masters, observing always to keep directly before the sea, and when they have received the last shock, or roll of the wave, they leap out of the boat and run her high on the beach ; but sometimes, in spite of all their vigilance, boats are overfet, and passengers drowned. Here is still a more romantic method of sailing upon *catamarans* ; consisting of three or four logs of wood lashed together, upon which the Indian places himself with a paddle,—having a cloth round his middle, and a high cap on his head, composed of leaves, which
throws

throws off the water ; for, like ducks, they are as often under the water as above it :—in this cap he deposits his letters,—and sometimes meets and follows ships to sea many leagues :—they always fish two or three miles from the shore, and then they stand upright to attend their lines, as firm as we on a more solid basis — tho' I have seen them fall off,—but they are on again in an instant.

To-morrow we sail for *Vizagapatam*, and shall leave behind us the highest oriental pomp. The respect offered even to a plebeian European, is sufficient to make him renounce the simplicity of his native country,—but when I ascend to the governor, 'tis beyond any regal pageantry you can conceive :—a jant to his villa, is like the moving of an

army. — I cannot say he is a demi-god, — but he is certainly a demi-king amidst his demi-devils. — One would imagine Milton caught the fire of his infernal description, from an Indian governor marching to war.

All in a moment, thro' the gloom were seen
 Ten thousand banners rise into the air,
 With orient colours waving : with them rose
 A forest huge of spears, and thronging helms
 Appear'd, and serried shields in thick array,
 Of depth immeasurable: anon they move
 In perfect phalanx. —

A man ought to have a strong share
 of good sense, and abundance of hu-
 mility, to withstand such honours, and
 such adulation; unless he means to
 reside

reside here his whole life; for 'tis an intoxication the air of England greatly disagrees with. A very merchant here appears as pompous as a prince;—and tho' the trade of England is allowed to exceed any other part of the world, yet there are merchants here, and a number too, the wealthiest in the universe. Their trade is not very extensive, seldom penetrating farther than *Persia*, *Turkey*, or the *Red-sea*;—but where there are any profits, they must amass great sums from their *economy* and low method of living:—they certainly make a pompous appearance of servants,—but then we must consider, those servants don't cost them more than 2 s. 3 d. *per* month, for they neither diet nor cloath them.—There was a petty trader

trader here called *Lingetty*, only valued at 250,000l. In short, you are but very little folks when compared with these orientals. I assure you we make no inconsiderate figure in an evening in the *Toddy Gardens*, where certainly pomp supplies the place of beauty. To be sure in the *Mall* you greatly exceed us:—but you must recollect you have no perpendicular suns:—it is no reflection on my countrywomen here—when truth, gives the preference to the native ladies,—who are of a fine bright olive, delicately formed, regularly featured, and pretty to admiration. In these gardens we drink a cool liquor called *Toddy*, which distills from the palm-tree:—the Indians make incisions in the wood, and hang little pots to receive

ceive the vegetable juice: the trees are from 50 to 70 feet high, without knot or branch, and yet the natives climb them with great agility, by the assistance of a hoop and spikes to their feet. The cacao, which is a species of the palm, is superior in utility to any tree of the creation,—particularly in the *Maldives* * islands, where they build, rig, and fit out ships from this tree, and when ready to sail, load them with its product,—as wine, arrack, (which is a spirit by distillation from the toddy) vinegar, black sugar, (from evaporation of the toddy) fruit and shells. These will appear most extraordinary productions for one tree, and yet when

* A chain of isles S. E. of Malabar,
minutely

minutely and philosophically considered, not more wonderful than many other parts of the creation; as the growth of hemp, the growth of cotton, and a worm weaving silken robes for the fopperies of mankind. The bark of this tree maketh sails, cordage, and cables, a kind of cables superior to those we have; being of an elastick nature, they endure the force of the tempest better, and improve from being in the water: the body of the tree affords timber, and their very anchors are made of wood loaded with stones. All over India their huts are constructed of this tree, and thatched with the leaves; the milk of the nut they drink; they eat the kernel, and the shells are used for various domestick purposes.

purposes. To travel and not communicate our observations is ungenerous; and often when they are read by those, who have not been out of the smoak of their own chimnies, they are looked on as hyperbolical and romantic. Tho' you have not voyaged, Sir, you have read, and, perhaps, amongst all your reading, have not met a *Mandeville* equal to—

Your nephew, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R VI.

To H. M. Esq.

Vizagapatam, August 2, 1754.

THIS is the most social spot I have seen on this continent.—The whole factory live in such harmony together, they may be properly stiled one family, of which Mr. Pigot is the father and governor. A scene of such hospitality to a traveller is uncommon, but when met with, very engaging. Their houses are small, and situated in the midst of gardens, and serve at once for temples and habitations,—but calculated for coolness, and surrounded with the tallest palm

palm trees.—In such a corner of the earth, where a new European face is seen but annually, what a pleasure it is to find a gentleman endowed with power and abilities, studious to please, and agreeable to those fortune has raised him to govern. The love and friendship which reign in this small society, look so much like the golden age,—that I dread the very thoughts of a departure.

Aurea prima fata est æstas, quæ, vindice nullo,
Sponte suâ sine lege fidem rectumque colebat.
Montibus in liquidas pinus descenderat undas:
Nullaque mortales, præter sua littora, nôrant.

————— sine militis usu
Mollia securæ peragebant otia * gentes.

* Mentis.

Ver

Ver erat æternum, placidique tepentibus auris
 Mulcebant Zephyri natos sine semine flores.
 Flumina jam lactis, jam flumina nectaris ibant,
 Flavaque de viridi stillabant ilice mella.

That was a golden age which man first saw,
 Reason his guide, and nature all his law :
 Trees kept their mountains, nor did man ex-
 plore
 Riches in ships, *on India's burning shore.*
 No hostile *Nabob's* arms disturb'd his peace,
 Time slid away in virtue, love, and ease.
 Flowers bloom'd eternal, nor from seeds they
 grew,
 Spring was immortal,—Zephyrs gently blew.
 With milk, and nectar, ev'ry stream was fill'd,
 And *wine, arrack,* and honey *palms* distill'd.

The

The country about Vizagapatam is very mountainous, and the valleys rich and shady :—thro' these mountains runs a small river, and on the banks and sides of the hills a number of little villas and grottos are delightfully situated.

This is the first place I ever received any advantage from having a public education—meeting with Mr. M. B. a school-fellow and countryman.—It is impossible to say the mutual pleasure it occasions ;—how happy he is to confer civilities,—how pleased I am to receive them, especially from a man I long lived with, and with whose connexions I am well acquainted. There are many things to be said for and against a public education ;—it gives a youth, who is to push his way through the world, an idea

of it in miniature:—a large school may be compared to a small republic,—for there you have chiefs, patricians and plebeians,—wits and dunces;—military, mechanical, mercantile, astronomical, poetical, and every other genius in its infancy,—and very often such friendships are contracted as to even rival NISUS and EURYALUS; and that scholastick friendship is of so permanent a nature, that it alone is a sufficient inducement for a father who has enjoyed it, to send his son to partake of the same happiness.—We are entertained at the governor's table with a most peculiar repast, or rather *desert*—as 'tis never served till the cloth's removed;—but yet 'tis no fruit—but perfectly a vegetative or animal treat.—In short, 'tis one of SWIFT's Lilliputians,

tians,—a man, the most corroborating proof of the Dean's travels,—tho' his elegant voyages are treated as mere matter of romance—when they are certainly no more so than *Robinson Crusoe*. The world perhaps, one day or other, may pretend to say so of mine,—because I shall begin like *Daniel de Foe*, “ I. E. T. “ was born of reputable parents in the “ town of Kingston upon Hull, from “ whence I sail'd in the *Love and Unity*, “ (whom God preserve) anno 1750, on “ a voyage to Greenland.”—I shall almost find it as great a difficulty to get credit, as these much greater authors,—especially when I tell you, our desert at the governor's was the person and conversation of an Indian dwarf, three feet high, and a priest of the Moorish church;

his face is a perfect jet—contrasted, with a long silver beard,—and every member proportioned with the justest symmetry ; —the tone of his voice is sonorous and manly,—and his conversation sensible ; he is married to a lady greatly out of proportion to himself,—who has bore him two children (not of the Lilliputian race) whom I one day saw him severely chide in the public street with his cane ; —a kind of a domestic doctrine propagated here. This Mahometan pigmy every day after dinner, is placed by the servant on the table, where he walks round, and discourses warmly with the guests in English. Such an orator with you would draw a great congregation, and make more come to church than were religious. I wish I could remit him by letter

ter—he would raise as great a concourse as the quart bottle did,—with more probability of getting into it : but he is an ecclesiastic of distinction—and from his *petit-ness*—enjoys a good living,—tho' three and four thousand pounds have been offered, by many East-India captains, to bring him to England, and return him in four years, but without success. I must own I often wish I could trepan his holiness, tho' it would wear the air of sacrilege in a pagan country.

I am, &c.

L E T T E R VII.

To L. L.

Vizagapatam, August 3, 1754.

IT is almost endless to continue the theme of paganism, for every acre of ground contains people of different tenets. — Here I am presented with the superstition of the *Mussulman*—and have visited their grand mosque: wherein are a number of lamps, which have burnt for many years. The building is a mean piece of marble architecture, adorned with dull hieroglyphicks; and the only ornament within is a neat silk bed, whereon they would persuade me the body of
Ma-

Mahomet's brother was reposed—which I attempted to look at, but they were prepared to prevent me. This mosque is illuminated every day of worship, and the sleeping prophet served with the daintiest cates,—for no man's prayers are accepted without an offering. They have neither altars nor images, but when they pray, they turn themselves toward *Mecca*, where ('tis said) *Mahomet* was born, and where his temple *Kiaabe* stands, but his tomb is at *Medina*, about ten miles from *Mecca*, where an annual pilgrimage is made. But of all idolatries, (unless the Egyptian) nothing can be more shocking and ridiculous, than the adoration of MONKIES here; which from being made sacred, are innumerable. In a large pleasant, shady valley, about five

miles from *Vizagapatam*, is the neatest, best building in India, called *Annemunto* temple, in which a golden monkey is worshipped by this idolatrous part of mankind, as a representative of the whole community,—which inhabit the trees of the valley, and are fed with rice at the expence of their worshippers.—It is very diverting to ride through this vale, amongst these little sylvan gods,—which may be styled the Satyrs of the Woods:—they must certainly be what the ancients adored under the name of *Satyri*, *Panes*, *Fauni*, *Sylvarum Dii*,—"Gods of the woods."—They seem so sensible of their respect and security, as to approach you, and accompany you, as you move, from tree to tree, with a thousand anticks peculiar

to

to their race. I cannot imagine what can have procured them so much respect with these people, unless it is their resemblance of little men, and their belief in the doctrine of *Pythagoras*;—for absolutely their appearance is more human than animal, being a strong likeness of the natives in every thing but size,—which is very small; their faces are black, and their beards long and white. We are not to be astonished at such idolatry, when we read the wisest and bravest people have been guilty of worse absurdities in kneeling to stocks and stones.

We have here a defeated *Nabob* with all the regalia of war, and so very military is his appearance, that women, elephants, and camels, compose his camp:

camp : his ladies are so numerous, that their huts alone form a little town, being 300, and in separate apartments, —and as difficult to be come at, as the most hidden jewels in the mines of *Golconda*. Such is the vanity of the oriental ladies, preferring the goodth part of a prince, and eternal solitude and retirement, to liberty and one man. This kind of love would ill agree with the English ladies : to be carried to Bath and Scarboro' in a hutch, and there deprived of the pleasure of seeing and being seen.—I entertain myself here in an evening in a sumptuous manner, riding between two of the Nabob's sons on a she elephant;—the back being broad, requires no saddle, —a red cloth trim'd with gold being
 thrown

thrown over for ornament: the gait is long and fatiguing, but not being above ten feet high, is a hobby in comparison of some here. The sagacity of the elephant is so well known, that no action of the animal can surprize you after attending and reading the facts related by the celebrated *Pliny*:—" he
 " tells us an elephant duller, than usu-
 " al, was found by his master practis-
 " ing the lessons taught him in the day,
 " —and that he saw one which had
 " learnt the Greek alphabet, and could
 " put a sentence together with his
 " trunk." For my own part, I have been so much amongst them, and have seen so many of their actions, that I can credit any thing I hear of them.—
 Close to the window of my lodging,

is tethered eleven, where they are fed with long grafs and boughs of trees; but, upon my rising this morning, I was presented at once with the most unparalleled scene of revenge and knowledge, that ever came from a brute.—This hobby of *Brobdignag* was the moderate size of 15 feet 4 inches.—I won't enter into a minute description of so common an animal, only contradict the error of their sleeping against a tree, and having no joints,—by assuring you they rise and fall with more agility than most beasts of the creation. Their capacity is certainly beyond *half reasoning*; they are absolutely lawyers when compared with many of our acquaintance,—and the following little history will so bias you in their favour, that,

could

could I believe in transmigration, I should persuade myself you would re-animate the body of the *reasoning elephant*.—The keeper broke him a cocoa-nut, and gave him the shell only, which the beast took with that apparent good nature, he had done with the kernel in. When he came to feed him the following morning, he seized him with his trunk, threw him in the air, then mangled the body with his foot,—placing the shell on the corpse, (which he had retained in his mouth) as a reason for the cause of the murder. I expect credit with you for this, *Pliny* might have got it with the world; but, however romantick and astonishing this action may appear, yet it falls as infinitely short of their sagacity, and

and docility, as your humble servant
does of

Yours, &c.

Postscript.

How in ffect varies in the grov'ling swine;
Compar'd, half reas'ning elephant, with
thine !

Pope credits Pliny, but who'll credit mine ?

LET.

L E T T E R VIII.

- To G. T. Esq;

Vizagapatam, August 4, 1754.

I AM now in the midst of a *Nabob's* seraglio,—where three hundred chosen beauties are devoted for his pleasure:—but, alas! tho' in the midst of these lovely creatures, whose ages are from nine to seventeen, I cannot see one:—a centinel protects every door, and to force one would be cruel, when the other day he was defeated, and stripped of every necessary but these—the most cordial in life. And yet, when I reflect on their forlorn situation,—I am
almost

almost mad enough to commence *Quixote*—and I certainly should, if I had a *Sancho* to accompany me, but fighting of windmills *solus*, affords no pleasing remarks,—for the highest entertainment is fighting the battle over again, as your Yorkshire jockeys kill the fox ;—but indeed these young beauties deserve our warmest pity,—when we recollect this amorous *Nabob* is at *Delly*,—the seat of the Great Mogul : think what sighs and tears are shed and blown for him,—whilst I, as loving as he, am a vagrant in an unknown land : their huts are only composed of clay, and thatched ; so, wherever he pitches his camp, these are erected for their privacy and convenience.—I am told there's a great jealousy subsists among them,—and that
 he

he is as studious to prevent it.—I have been presented with a little ode written by one of his ladies on her rival,—but the language is so difficult,—and I am so little acquainted with it,—I fear I shall not do it that justice so great a curiosity merits,—but you shall have the sense of it.—

ZINZEMERZA to CALIL ULLAH.

ZINZEMERZA can't be gay,
 Whilst her great Nabob's away :
Zinzemerza don't forget
 Her teeth of iv'ry, face of jet ;
 Her silken robes,—her shining hair,
 The jewel which her nose doth bear.
 O may the elephant you ride !
 Conduct you safe o'er desarts wide :

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E.

May

May all the *Pagods* of our land
 Attend you o'er the burning sand :
 And *Calil Ullah*,—may no face
 Appear with *Zinzemerza's* grace !
 O fend your passions may withstand
 The beauties of that distant land !
 Kind *Calil*, gen'rous as the palm,
 Gentle as summer seas when calm ;
 Brave as the lynx—great, glorious man,
 The sweetest prince of *Indoſtan*.
 O *Calil Ullah*, pray be true,
 Hear me—I swear—by great *Viſnou**,
 When you die—I burn with you.
 Deck'd in my moſt coſtly pride,
 Will I mount the funeral pile !
Bramins ſhall weep to ſee me ſmile,
 And tell the world how *Zinzemerza* died.

* *Viſnou*, a Pagod worſhipped by the In-
 dians.

You will find this burning passion peculiar to the ladies of this country, who possess the greatest firmness on such occasions;—a firmness not to be paralleled amongst the Roman dames,—tho' we mention *Aria*, *Portia*, and *Lucretia*.—But here I must have committed a great offence to one so devoted to the Roman history,—as to admire the martial spirit of *Publius*,—tho' he murdered his sister in the midst of his triumph;—but *Rome* could forgive her heroes any murders,—tho' at the expence of wisdom and humanity.

In these charcoal beauties we find great temperance, constancy, and obedience; you hardly hear of adultery:—the women of irregular pleasures being so by birth, and known by the name of *Danc-*

ing girls,—who are hired upon all festivities, and in their gesticulations are guilty of some indecencies ; they are distinguished in their apparel like the *Atkenians*, and by that are known to all the world as *Filles de joie*. The diet of the ladies is entirely vegetables ;—they dress their husband's victuals, and wait on him and the children ; and, after asking leave, dine alone on the residue. They are married by their parents at two years old, but do not cohabit till nine, and here it is common to see them with child at ten.—There are some injunctions laid on the women, which would appear cruel in a land of liberty and ease like England :—the husband may have as many wives as he pleases, and his circumstances will maintain,—and should one *dear creature*.

ture repine, or censure his incontinence, he can divorce her by allowing her a necessary support;—or should she commit an amorous error,—he can reduce her to a slave in his own house.—This submission to the will and caprice of a husband, appears terrible, and yet they are chains which sit easy in the climes they are wore.

The stature of the women is low, their complexions olive, their hair jet black and long, their features small and regular, and their forms genteel: and so general, that in all the parts of India I have passed through,—I never met a deformed woman, which I attribute to the method of rearing their children — They never swathe them, nor dress them with any other thing but trinkets round

their necks, ankles, and wrists;—they use no strings to support them, but let 'em roll about till they find their feet, by which they walk some months sooner than the children in *Europe*. —The dress of their ladies is light, and adapted to the climate, being silk or muslin thrown negligently over the breasts, and pinned round the waste like a petticoat; their fopperies consist in rings and diamonds, the principal one as big as the crystal of a watch, is set with one large jewel, or a number of small ones, and placed in the lower part of the right nostril:—this nasal mode will appear ridiculous to you,—but I give you my word, it adds an air of dignity to the face,—and should the ladies of *England* follow the fashion, I dare say their noses on a birth-day would

pur-

purchase the rest of their dress.—You certainly have a right to laugh at a custom so *outrè* and *Indian*, as your hogs are the only animals in this mode. But the most shocking hardship is burning with the stinking body of a dead husband, or quitting their families and becoming prostitutes; an horrid alternative to a virtuous mind.—This was first introduced by the *Bramins* as a law,—and at length became a religious act,—and a prudent one for the men,—when one woman would have ten husbands; for as they disobliged her she removed them by poison; since which, few have been destroyed, as it falls so heavy on the destroyer.—In another letter you shall have the description of a funeral pile, having suffici-

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ently awakened your understanding to
doubt the customs of a country so re-
moved.

I am, &c.

LET.

L E T T E R IX.

To H. M. Esq;

Bengal, August 21, 1754.

IT is impossible for me to describe, or you to conceive, with what reluctance I left *Vizagapatam*, (the *Enna* of *India*) tho' the last day had nearly been my *last*. You well remember what a jockey I always was at the *Hull* hunt, when the chase of an hare brought me as many times on the ground, as I rid miles,—but being born with a presumptive adventurous spirit,—I attended the gentlemen of the factory in pursuit of a lynx;—but thro' indolence,
inat-

inattention, or bad riding, I was separated from my companions, when the beast rushed from the thicket—stood close to my horse,—and viewed us alternately with longing lips;—but don't imagine we remained twelve hours in this *delightful* attitude,—or twelve minutes,—but long enough to create an additional heat, to that of the climate. —You'll be *disappointed* when I tell you, my friends relieved me by the death of the monster,—because the catastrophe would have been greatly heightened,—by his tearing me to pieces,—*and writing the account afterwards*. I never saw in any place so complete a menage as at Vizagapatam, wherein no animal is omitted but the lion, which is not a beast of this climate.—The beast of labour

labour is the buffalo, and the cows the largest I have seen, which, in many parts of India, particularly *Bombay*, draw all the coaches. I have now the pleasure of contradicting a romantick poetical notion, of theameleon's subsistence being only upon air. This creature has a long forked tongue, which it throws out with incredible swiftness, and seldom misses its prey, which are flies,—and all other winged insects. I am afraid this abrupt contradiction of a thing so universally received, will meet with few believers, especially amongst the MUSES,—nay, they cannot receive it,—it being a means of destroying a great simile, and the only one nature affords:—the toad's feeding on vapour is very inferior to the other,—especially
when

when a poet means to describe the life of a man, who, to all appearances, lives upon nothing,—which gives him room to say,

“ While I, condemn’d to thinnest fare,

“ Like those I flatter’d, feed on air.”

Had it not been from a false, or rather no knowledge at all of this animal, the world would have lost an excellent fable of the spaniel and cameleon, written by the celebrated Mr. Gay : therefore, since it is probable the poets may be hurt by this truth, I beg it may go no farther than your own breast, as it will be hurting the trade of a most learned body, who are too poor to be afflicted with the smallest
loss,

loss, or the least additional misfortune.
 —But theameleon assumes different colours, according to the different rays of light, which are thrown upon it,—and very often the hue of the herbage it crawls on;—a bright simile for a courtier.—Our passage cross the Bay was ten days, which gives rise to the term *Coast* and *Bay*,—from the ships that visit *Coromandel* and *Bengal*,—which is the most eastern province of the Mogul's dominions, and superior in fertility to *Egypt* itself.—

—————“ For nature here
 “ Wanton'd, as in her prime, and plaid at
 “ will
 “ Her virgin fancies, pouring forth more
 “ sweet,
 “ wild above rule or art !”—

The

The *Ganges* which is as large as any river in the world, rises in the mountains in *Tartary*, and runs S. E. dividing itself into several branches, which empty themselves into the *Bay of Bengal*, and overflow the kingdom like the *Nile*. From these floods *Bengal* is thought unwholesome,—but I rather think the intemperance of Europeans is to be censured more than the climate, for drinking is here a reigning vice, and too often practised in a morning. The excessive heats, terrible fogs, and the shifting of the periodical winds, are very disagreeable circumstances; for the monsoons are attended with such violent storms of thunder, lightning, winds, and rain, that you would rather imagine it the dissolution of nature, than any thing

thing else. Every new and full moon we are alarmed here by a *boar*, of which you have some small idea in the rivers falling into the *Bristol* channel:—'tis occasioned by the rains coming down the smaller branches of this great river—and opposing the regular lunar flood from the sea; the opposition of two such bodies of water, occasion one to flow above thirty feet above the other;—its appearance is awful, and the consequences often fatal to men and shipping. The eternal verdure which reigns here, is delightful,—but 'tis difficult to determine whether the woods or floods are more savage, one swarming with crocodiles, the other with tygers.—I hope, as we advance, to find a more civilized kingdom, but a people not quite

quite so valiant as those who opposed
Alexander, nor yet seven feet high, like
 the brave king *PORUS**.

I am, &c..

* Defeated by Alexander—to perpetuate
 which victory,—two cities were built, *Peritas*
 and *Bucephala*,—one in honour of his dog,
 the other of his horse.

LET-

L E T T E R X.

To Miss Ez. T.

Calcutta, August 30, 1754.

NOTwithstanding I have gone thro' various difficulties, yet I cannot help admiring the traveller's life above the citizens,—who is feldom more eccentric than the smoak of his own chimney,—and, on going to dinner at *Hampstead*, will raise the whole family at four in the morning to equip him for the journey. The French, in general, are more confined and opiated, than the Londoners,—they conceit themselves the citizens of the world, that their language

is the language of the earth ;—by knowing one another, they know all mankind ;—and, in seeing *France*, they see the universe. Your thirst of knowledge, I know is so great, that you even envy me this oriental excursion, but I promise, as a small compensation for your loss, to amuse you with my remarks ; I shall not improve you, —but I shall add to your happiness by proving to you, how much you are above these heathens. I have just sailed up one of the largest rivers in the world,—which is so full,—you would imagine one puff of wind would deluge the whole country. Nature wears here her very gayest livery, nor is it annually changed, but ever fair and flourishing. The country is champaign,
and

and diversified with meadows, groves, and corns : their towns and cities on the banks are very populous, but their houses mean clay huts, thatched with straw. *Calcutta*, where the English have established their principal factory, is an elegant city, the houses are lofty and airy, and the governor's palace magnificent. The English ladies live in the greatest pomp, and receive a peculiar respect from being white,—tho', in point of beauty and symmetry of features, inferior to the natives. How much happier you must be, when you recollect the servile subordination of the wives to their husbands; waiting at table on him and his children, and dining on what they leave;—such meals would ill digest with many of our acquaintance; but

custom happily reconciles every thing. —Here is one excellent established manner, of the eldest son's maintaining the rest of the family;—if it could be translated to England, it would be a great comfort to us younger brothers, who are not able to maintain ourselves;—besides it would wear off that heavy, dull, illiterate capacity, so peculiar to the first-born male.—The girls depend on marriage, of which there's little danger of missing, when the contracts are made in infancy, and consummated at nine years old;—'tis a fine method to prevent old maids perplexing a community with their venom'd gossiping: for lying and antiquated virginity are inseparable. The respect the women pay to their dead husbands,—will stagger

ger the belief of every married lady, when they're told, they burn themselves with their bodies; but of late years it is much abolished, and utterly forbid within the jurisdiction of the English factory. The introduction of so cruel a custom, was at first political, and at length made, by priest-craft, religious, —and really happily introduced for the safety of the *poor* men, who as fast as they disoblged their wives, or the wives grew weary of them, they put them out of the way by a little quick poison; but since burning or ignominy is the alternative, the ladies are as assiduous to preserve the lives of their dons, as they were diligent to destroy them. Two days ago I was present at one of these cruel scenes, when the sweetest widow

of twenty was sacrificed to the manes of an old husband. The procession was trifling, and tho' all appeared in smiles, yet a solemnity reigned through the whole, as if the festivity was affected. In the front of this living funeral advanced her three daughters, (pretty creatures, from five to nine years old) next her only son,—then a band of harsh music,—and lastly, the widow followed by all her friends and kindred. She was dressed in her gayest apparel, and adorned with jewels, gold and silver trinkets, &c. The funeral pile consisted of aromattick woods, dipped in gums; it was five feet high, and on the top was extended the dead body of her husband. As soon as she arrived, she surveyed it with a pleasing carelessness,

ness, and repeating some words, walked stately three times round; then took a most affectionate leave of all her friends, and lastly, her babes, who parted with smiles; but I own, I thought the boy would have shook her constancy, dwelling some time about his neck,—which the priest perceiving, interrupted her; the church receiving profits from such horrid catastrophes. She then stripped herself of all her ornaments, giving something to all, and with the most unshaken courage mounted the pile; taking the head of the dead body in her lap, and a jar of oil in her hand,—which, as soon as the fire was kindled, she poured over her head, and without sigh, tear, or emotion, expired in an instant,—whilst

the crowd filled the air with acclamations of joy.—

“ Accipe me *Capaneu* : cineres miscibimur,

“ inquit

“ *Iphias* : in medios defiluitque rogos.

OVID.

Receive me *Capaneus* *Evadne* * cried,

Our ashes death himself shall not divide :

I come to join thee with a nuptial smile,

She said, and leap'd amidst the blazing pile.

But from the account given us by *Propertius*, the Indian excels the Grecian : for it was raving madness in *Evadne*, for the death of her husband

* *Evadne*, daughter of *Iphis*, or *Hyphias*, by *Mars*,—called *Iphias* by *Ovid*.

Capa-

Capaneus, which made her guilty of such rashness : but how custom and paganism can bring a young creature, in the bloom of life to destroy herself, staggers all reason and philosophy ;—the dread of ignominy and penury, must operate strongly on the human mind,—and may prevail before the damnation pronounced by the *Bramin*. To be reduced to a slave in the house we have been mistress of,—and to be exposed to shame, poverty and prostitution ; to renounce children, friends, and family, are arguments of so powerful a nature,—as to make the virtuous embrace a death of this sort, before a life of infamy and wretchedness. I must own I felt an uncommon emotion upon this occasion, when I considered the
wisdom

wisdom and courage of man were meant by the Deity to protect and defend the beauty and virtue of woman, and not so inhumanly to destroy a life given by the hand of God, who has the only right to dispose of it.

I am, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R X L.

To L. L. Esq.

Calcutta, September 5, 1754.

I HAVE now sailed some hundred miles upon sacred water, and the further I advance, the more I find superstition and idolatry encrease. The salutary waters of BATH and PIERMONT, are not to be mentioned with these, in point of dearness and veneration: they are bottled and carried to every part of India,—and are the most valuable liquor at their entertainments. The respect to these waters arises from an opinion, that their idol *Jaganat* was
 taken

taken from a beautiful flower which
 floated on the *Ganges*, by the sovereign
 god *Vistnou*; and that he invested him
 with the power of governing the world.
 This seems to be the sense of the *Ve-*
dam, and corresponds with Mr. *Ramsay's*
Cyrus, tho' the *Bramins* show the nar-
 rowness of their knowledge, in look-
 ing on a large body of waters, (as the
Ganges are) as the great abyfs before
 the creation of the world. “ Que les
 “ *Bramins* reconnoissent un seul, &
 “ souverain dieu qu'ils appellent *Vist-*
 “ *nou*; que sa premiere, & plus anci-
 “ enne production fut un dieu secon-
 “ daire nommè *Brama*; que le souve-
 “ rain dieu le tira d'un fleur qui flotoit
 “ sur la surface de l'abime avant le
 “ création de ce monde: & enfin que
 “ *Vistnou*

“ *Vistnou* donna à *Brama*, à cause de sa
 “ fidélité, le pouvoir de créer l’uni-
 “ vers.” In the different parts of *Indo-
 stan*, this idol *Brama* is addressed by
 the name of *Jaganat*, *Ramram*, *Bruin*,
 &c. whom they worship as *Vistnou*’s
 vice-gerent.—I was present at one of
 their festivals in the month of Septem-
 ber, which continued four days, from
 the 23d to the 27th. Their assemblies
 are held in temples, built (in a hum-
 ble manner) like the Roman amphi-
 theatres, and greatly crowded on such
 occasions. Here they sing, dance, and
 play on the most dissonant instruments,
 to amuse the idol; which of all inven-
 tions is the most monstrous,—more
 horrid than that worshipped in *Gaza* by
 the *Philistines*.—

“ *Da-*

“ *Dagon* his name; sea monster! upwards

“ man

“ And downwards fish.”—

Some of their pagods are represented riding on a cow, (which animal they call the mother of nature) women with the trunk of an elephant instead of a nose, and some with five heads, and ten hands. There is an emulation amongst the different tribes of the *Jentoos*, who can excel in expences to their idols; and to see their tastes, you would imagine they were emulous to be monstrous.—Figures with tongues to their knees, the head of a hog to the body of a man,—a woman's face with a fish's tail, carved upon wood, with red and yellow hands and faces. One would
 imagine

imagine they had read HORACE,—and seriously, where he laughed,

Would you not (*Piso*) at that painter rail,
Who drew a WOMAN with a fish's tail?

For they have certainly put together, and collected every ridiculous image he mentioned in his art of poetry. These horrid idols are placed on an eminence in the upper parts of the temple, which they approach with the most profound reverence; where a woman sits surrounded with a number of hot dishes, which she alternately dabs in the faces of the figures, while the high priest of the *Bramins* is wafting a feathered fan to keep 'em cool. The scene is varied the following day, by ornament-

ing the walls of the pagodas, with the figures of birds, fish, and fruit cut in paper, with dancing-girls, Merry Andrews, &c. to divert the spectators. The third is past on the *Ganges*, where their *Buggeraus* or boats, make a most elegant appearance, being rowed by 40 or 50 oars.—In these barges their idols are carried,—and upon their decks they perform a kind of comedy,—a clown being the principal character,—who jumps, roars and makes faces for four hours to divert his pagod,—and give him a good opinion of man's civility on earth,—hoping he'll recommend his tribe to the sovereign god. This kind of *Lord Mayor's Shew*, is concluded by throwing the idols into the river, and with them a number of jars of potted meat,

neat, sealed down, to supply them on their journey to a distant world:—but what is still more shocking,—these poor, deluded, ignorant wretches, will plunge in and drown with them, in hopes of a more exalted state, and a quicker transmigration. Such is the blind zeal of these pagans, and such the roguery of priests; to persuade their followers, there is life in stocks, and that images are mediators between them and a deity.—I shall leave you to animadvert on the weakness and folly of man,—and enlarge on the prejudice of education and bad example: for like wax, we receive any impression, and when made in our youth, too often continues to our death: which shows how necessary good instructions are,

and I believe the best general lesson is a fair example,—for where one acts from himself, there are ten act from copy; but when the imitation rests in defects,—it must prove a defective body. *Los Ninos de pequēnos, que no áy castiga después pâra ellos.*

Yours, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R. XII.

To Miss M. G.

Calcutta, November 26, 1754.

INdolence, in this part of the world, appears to be a greater fatigue than real labour with you: it absolutely requires invention, how to pass away the time; for the natives are so very active in transacting the different branches of business, that we have nothing to do, and little more to say, than yes, —and no. In an evening, by way of air and amusement, we swing to the *Bread and cheese* * *Bungula* in our palan-

* In the year 1754, the confines of the India Company's factory.

quins,—where, in all the pomp of the east, we say, “ How do you do ? ” and come back again. As for my part, I have lost the use of my legs,—being deemed vulgar to walk, and you know my spirit’s so great, that I had rather lose them than my manners. The entertainments are given here with grandeur and ceremony ; and the married ladies in general addressed by the name of *Bibbie*, (i. e.) wife ; and tho’ their complexions are a perfect bright shining walnut, yet we men call them all those fair names due to the fairest. I have often wished you here ; you would be the *Juliet* of the east.—but I would not wish *Juliet* the Sun,—for two suns would consume us.—As for musick, we have none : but in an evening, after
the

the dropping of the sun,—there is the most dismal croakings and hissings of reptiles, from the hooded serpent to the toad,—and the solemn ear of night is generally offended by an hideous chorus of jackals, which come in herds from the woods for prey. And tho' the pagans have not one ray of scripture, yet they retain in perfection a sounding brass, and a tinkling symbol. —We have fellows too which tumble before our doors,—and show an activity not unworthy *Sadler's Wells*. Upon a long pole they carry a number of small baskets, in which are a great variety of serpents, and from tuition, (the serpent, we are told, being an apt scholar) they rise to the tinkling of a brass kettle; dart out their forked tongues,

hiss, and drop into their baskets again. You'll be much surprised when I tell you we have a hunt here,—but every man that engages in it, ought to be a perfect *Nimrod*, with the fortune of a *Daniel*. Being a Yorkshireman, instinct prompted me to attend one morning, tho' I had a right to plead excuse on the part of a sailor.—Out we sallied, very formidable Quixots,—armed with sword, lance, and pistol. I could not conceive the use of such armour,—when the mighty object was only a wild buffalo, till I was told, “They were sometimes surprised by a tiger:” a sufficient incident to make reason decline so hazardous a chase: but juvenile modesty could not deny an expedition, where absolutely life and character were risked,

—a modesty, which too often precipitates youth beyond redemption. Imprudent things of this kind happen to all young men, and when they are even repugnant to their feelings and knowledge, they have not courage to give a sensible denial, for fear of incurring the ridicule of their companions.—Well, in the hunting strain we came to the cover, found, run, and killed;—but you, and all females would have laughed, to see the lances of so many heroes in an animal, as inoffensive as a cow. Flushed with this sylvan glory, we ranged for another, when, to my unspeakable astonishment, a tiger sprung over the head of one of the hunt, and without turning, went on. My brother bucks echoed, *Tally, O!* pleased

to their souls to see the beast go off, and find their friend well, who was sometime before he could utter an ejaculation for so happy an escape. It is the nature of the tiger, whenever he springs and misses his prey, to go on, —and a very happy brutal bashfulness it is. This was a fine anecdote for an evening's laugh, but I give you my honour, I'll never bear arms in such service again. The heads of our family are thin, and if he had scratched me with a talon, I had not lived to say how much I wish to see you, and call you *Bibbie*, which, may it be soon, is as much my request, as your desert.

I am, &c.

LET.

L E T T E R XHI.

To H. M. Esq.

Calcutta, December 19, 1754-

I AM certainly entitled to the name of JONAS, when I relate you so many escapes,—and yet the following one at *Chandanagore* *, is more serious than the rest. I was deputed by captain Ward to go in search of run seamen, being a tolerable speaker of the French language. I dined at an ordinary with a number of choice spirits in the French

* The principal settlement belonging to the French in the kingdom of *Bengal*.

navy,

navy, many of them taken the last war in the May fleet, under *Anson* and *Warren*.—Being young, gay, giddy, and flushed with claret,—I talked at random,—which, joined to a darkness of expression for want of a perfect knowledge of the language, raised some suspicions I was a spy, and before the cloth was well removed from the table, I was removed to the *Blackhole*. This situation was rather dismal; I guessed their suspicions, which made my thoughts as gloomy as my place of confinement,—neither knowing or being known to any person,—and what heightened my melancholy, I knew my fate would be hanging without question or ceremony.—In the midst of these dismal meditations, I was ordered
before

before the governor, a piece of good fortune I had quite despaired of,—for truth, youth, and innocence, were the only friends I had to depend on. The governor, receiving me with a smile said, “ How could you be so imprudent, “ Sir, to come with such a confidence “ of safety to survey and reconnoitre “ the fortifications?” I replied with a great deal of confidence, I came in search of some English seamen who had deserted, and my walk round the fort was merely for amusement. At which time the lady of the hotel where I lodged, pleaded my cause with great tenderness and success,—to the no small disappointment of those who had appeared against me. I am so sensible of the charity of this female stranger,—that I shall

shall fight the rest of my life, a soldier under their banner, nor desire a sweeter death, than in the defence of their injured virtues. I was immediately dismissed,—and a guard ordered to see me depart,—a departure to me of no reluctance.—I shall leave the kingdom of *Bengal* in a few days,—having repaired the damages our ship had sustained in the monsoon storm.—The waste and devastation made by this tempest is not to be described: the whole country appears a general deluge; men, women, beast, houses, &c. are promiscuously swept into the ocean. For some days, like old *Deucalion*, I have rowed in a boat through the town, making a stable my habitation, our house, with some hundreds, being in ruins; and yet they are
of

of a make so superior to the natives,
 one would think nothing could hurt
 them. The climate has certainly a
 great serenity,—but these hurricanes,
 and cataracts of rain, tho' once a year,
 are sufficient to float and blow one from
Bengal.

“ Fierce rain with light'ning mixt, water with
 “ fire

“ In ruin reconcil'd.—Dreadful was the rack

“ As earth and sky would mingle : nor yet
 “ slept the winds

“ Within their stony caves, but rush'd abroad

“ From the four hinges of the world, and fell

“ On the vast wilderness, whose tallest pines,

“ Tho' rooted deep as high, bow'd their stiff
 “ necks.—

“ —The floating vessel swam uplifted ; all

“ — Dwelling

“ _____ “ Dwelling else
“ Flood overwhelm’d, and them, with all
“ their pomp,
“ Deep under water rowl’d: sea cover’d sea;
“ Sea without shore! and in their palaces,
“ Where luxury lately reign’d, sea monsters
“ whelp’d,
“ And stabled.” _____

My next will be from *Ceylon*, from
whence you may be certain of descrip-
tions as calm, as these are ruffled.—
Adieu.—

LET

L E T T E R X I V .

To H. M. Esq;

Ceylon, January 12, 1754.

IN crossing the bay of *Bengal*, I had the pleasure of seeing the celebrated pagoda of *Jaganat*, which is a lofty building on a low shore, and serves for an excellent land-mark to seamen. To this temple many thousand Indians repair on pilgrimage, with annual offerings for their idol, represented in solid gold. The great wealth the priests of this pagoda have amassed from the donations of the superstitious, is beyond any thing you can conceive: for my
own

own part, I would not wish to enjoy the office of high Bramin for more than one year,—to surpass all your bishops and all their gleanings.—It much surprises me, since the death of *Alexander the Mad*, that none of our European mercenary mad-men have been mad enough to collect the eyes of these pagan gods; for they are large diamonds of inestimable value;—besides, it would be no cruelty, tho' a cruel theft; for their godships would see quite as well. The *English Indians* seem to be nibbling, but none have that spirit so peculiar to *Alexander*; who would rob and burn a church as soon as a hen roost,—tho' all are equally mercenary;—for 'tis with the view of lucre we came to

India,

India, and few make a bad use of their time.

“Fortuna multis dat nimis, nulli satis.”

Fortune, *whose favours are promiscuous thrown,*
Gives much to many, but enough to none.

Our passage hath been pleasant from the *Ganges*; but by falling in with the coast of *Ceylon* in the night, we had nearly lost our ship, by the deception of a strong current on the shore.—This island is certainly the garden of the word, —but whether or no the original *Eden*, I shall not pretend to determine; the natives strictly believe it so, and tho’ their doctrine is entirely pagan,—yet the few faint lights they throw out of the first

man and woman, and the conferences they believe the angels held with them on mount *Hammallell*, or *Adam's Hill*, give me strong reasons to believe, they might be converted to a better faith: but the Europeans, who visit these climates, study the propagation of riches, not religion. The mountain, called *Adam's Peak*, is prodigiously lofty, and may be seen a number of leagues at sea: on the summit is a square stone with the print of a man's foot upon it, which the Indians believe was made by God, when he paid his last visit to our primitive parents; and such is the respect and veneration paid to it—to make an annual pilgrimage up this lofty mountain, to kiss the stone. My short stay here will not permit me to
make

make those very particular remarks I could wish, for your amusement: and tho' I have not ascended to the top of this mountain,—yet the superior view it gave me of the world below, without that film removed from my eyes, “ which that false fruit that promised “ clearer sight had bred,” brought to my memory that descriptive passage of Milton's, when Michael, from a hill in Paradise, shows Adam the whole world.

“ —————It was a hill,
 “ Of Paradise the highest; from whose top
 “ The hemisphere of earth, in clearest ken,
 “ Stretch'd out to th' amplest reach of prof-
 “ pect lay.
 “ *The* eye might there command from th'
 “ destin'd walls

- “ Of *Cambalu*, seat of *Cathaian Can* :
 “ And *Samarcand* by *Oxus*, *Temir*’s throne ;
 “ To *Pekin* of *Senæan* kings : and thence
 “ To *Agra*, and *Labor*, of great *Mogul* ;
 “ Down to the golden *Ghirsonese* : or where
 “ The *Persian* in *Ecbatan* sat, or since
 “ In *Hispahan*.”—

My ascending the southern side of this tremendous mountain, which only commanded the island and the sea, deprived me of that northern prospect which lay behind from *Cambalu* to *Hispahan*.—This place seems to be chosen by the God of Nature for the sweetest and the fairest fruit-trees of the creation ; here is every thing that can please the taste, the smell, the sight—and if all the delicious productions of nature,

ture, the serenest sky, plenty, health, long life, beds of roses, purling streams, aromatick bowers, and eternal summer, entitle a place to the name of Paradise, this is the delightfulest spot upon earth.—I cannot say so much for it's inhabitants, when the mildness of such a climate does not render them less savage.—But if we allow the first pair to be expelled Eden,—in the course of years—it might as well be possessed by the race of *Cain* as *Adam*.—And if we agree the deluge was universal, the inundation might alter many particulars, without entirely rooting every tree peculiar to so fair a spot,—and then the disobedient race of *Ham* might extend themselves as well from *Lasba* to *Cey'on*, as from *Babel* to *Lasba*, tho' I rather

believe^d them black from the intense
heat of the sun, than stigmatized by
any curse denounced against them.

Yours, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R XV.

To J. T. Esq;

Tellecherry, February 7, 1755.

THE scene is greatly changed by changing the coast: the inhabitants of *Malabar* are an hardy, roving, warlike people, and from this place to cape *Comoroon*, are chiefly pirates and morattoes, that subsist by plunder. In passing from this port to *Anjengo*, we were visited by *Angria's* cruizers, who amused our attention by a distant cannonading, and night attacks: I must own, I had a desire to be more closely connected with them, to repeat what

H 4

my

my uncle Commodore *Bagwell* bestowed upon them. I have made many enquiries after his unhappy shipwreck, but have never heard of one plank being found of so many valuable vessels. I find his memory lamented and respected in every part of *India* I have travelled through,—which has been some advantage to me, a young voyager. He bears a very singular character for a seamen, being never heard to swear an oath;—a circumstance too rarely met with,—and much to be lamented. The *Banyan*, who transacted his affairs, told me he rowed from *Ingelee* down the *Ganges* in sight of his fleet,—after his victory over *Angria*; but tempestuous weather coming on, obliged him to return, which was the last sight of that valuable

valuable victorious squadron of seven sail. In the *Resolution* * he had immense wealth of the Portuguese, who were removing their families and effects from *Goa*, on account of an insurrection amongst the slaves ;—this appears by the letters Mr. Bagwell writ from *Malabar*,—for no soul survived with him to tell the tale.—From the many services he did the *East-India Company*, in a servitude of 36 years, and at last, after a memorable victory, ended his life in that service ;—one would imagine they would pay a charitable attention to his kindred,—but alas !—

The inhabitants of this coast, are very different to those of *Bengal* and

* Mr. Bagwell failed in the year 1740 against *Angria*.

Coromandel, being rather savage than effeminate,—and the country barren than fertile:—the natives attribute the scarcity of every thing to their long intestine wars, but the land appears to me naturally sterile. There is a petty prince, who has a small tract of land on this coast, the terror of the English, French, Dutch, and Portuguese: he's stiled the king of *Travancour*, and from repeated conquests is become dreaded. He's an active warrior, sensible and penetrating; and from rewards and observance, has brought the making of all military stores and implements to great perfection. Our Indian wars in the end will be like those of the Romans,—we shall beat Barbarians into such discipline, that they in the end will

will beat their masters. The different sects of idolaters are innumerable on these coasts, which makes it difficult to distinguish them by any particular name: were they of one opinion, the *Mahometans* would never reign over a people so superior in numbers. Here is a wandering tribe called *Faquiérs*, who pass their lives in acts of penance, to be examples to the world of fortitude and constancy, and the greater they make their voluntary sufferings, they hope their state will be the more exalted hereafter. Some vow never to unclothe their hands,—others to keep them stretched to heaven; some never to sit or lye down; and by prayer, penance, and fasting, they bring themselves to such a state of apathy, to be hardly call'd

alive. Before I left *Bengal*, there was a rich man vowed he would measure, by his own lengths, the distance between *Calcutta* and *Balassore*, which is about 300 miles, and did it. Here ignorance and superstition go hand in hand,—or who could imagine a man would convert himself to a rod to measure the earth. Here is another sect who pay their addresses to the devil,—nor can I help thinking but there is some reason, and more humour in the thought,—adding, God is too good to hurt his own creatures,—and a wicked devil may be prevented by prayer. In short, they are so very extravagant in their beliefs, that I must destroy yours to tell you half I know.—The trading commodity of this coast is chiefly pepper,

per, which is a creeper; the leaf like the vine, and the fruit grows in clusters: they plant it at the foot of a tall palm-tree, or place poles for it to run up.— I hope you'll think this vegetable digression as *apropos* as the introduction of a farce at the theatre, after a *wonderful* deep tragedy, to relieve the minds of the audience.—

Yours, &c.

LET.

L E T T E R XVI.

To G. T. Esq;

St. Helena, May 30, 1755.

AFTER a passage of 85 days, (one and twenty of which were so dead calm, that the very sea grew putrid) we are arrived at this small particle of earth, placed in the midst of an immense ocean, and so very removed from any thing terrestrial, that it surprizes me it is not washed away and dissolved in such a body of waters,—the basis is so very small, and the rock so perpendicular, that with our deepest line and plummet we can find no ground but
in

in one place round this island, and there the bank is so small and steep, as not to admit of more than twelve sail of ships. It is distinguished to you by a single black dot on the general map, and 'tis hardly more on the sea, which makes it so difficult to find. The Dutch (who are not quite such alert navigators as the English) call it *Butter* island; they say the sun melts it,—and tho' there may be some humour in the thought, yet it is a small apology for their want of vigilance. One would imagine the God of nature intended this spot for the recreation of seamen, in their long passages through these southern seas,—and as a guide to so small a place, gave a peculiar pidgeon to inhabit it, and direct the voyager.

This

This bird rambles an hundred miles to windward, and nearly on an east and west line in the latitude of the island: an herald as pleasing to us, as that to *Noah* with the olive branch, being a certain indication we have not passed the isle: but, what is still more extraordinary, these birds are never seen to leeward. The sailing into this port is romantic beyond description, the rocks being so lofty, and your ship passing so near them, they make a perfect canopy between you and the heavens. A vessel from the summit of these hills appears no bigger than her boat or buoy, and her men, like those in *Lear*, gathering samphire on the rocks of *Dover*. *Saint Helena* is situated in the sereneest clime I ever breathed in, and

delightfully temperate,—not subject to either hurricanes or earthquakes, for one concussion would throw it down like a nine pin,—and the water dissolve it like a lump of sugar. The surface is good mould, and would produce all kinds of grain, was it not infested with mice and rats, which devour it as soon as sown;—the inhabitants, therefore, are obliged to eat yams *, instead of bread, some part of the year; their meal and corn being brought annually

* The yam is an esculent root, not unlike the potatoe,—the best of which comes from China. It is boiled, cut in slices, and eat as bread.—I prefer it to every root of the earth, —not to eat as bread,—but in the manner we do the potatoe: the juice of it, before boiled, is of a very poisonous nature;—I have seen the experiment made upon cats.

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I

in

in the store ships from England. Every family has two houses;—their town habitation being in St. James's valley, where they instantly repair on the arrival of a ship, to regale the sea gentry with the produce of their farms. Every house, like *Bath*, is let out in lodgings, —and exorbitantly dear;—for as valedudinarians make one market,—the arrival of a scurvy fleet makes the other. Their profits are great, when you consider they raise all their own stock, enjoy it with their lodgers,—and make them likewise most extravagantly pay for it, which we Tars do with profuseness:—for the short time we stay, the mind's in a perfect enchantment;—the power of *Circe* o'er the companions of *Ulysses*, is not to be compared with our
situ-

situation, nor her magick spells, with the intoxicating delights of *St. Helena* :—every thing appears like a scene of incantation, to an eye so long confined to sky and water,—a body corrupted with salt food,—and the jet beauties of *India* exchanged for the fairest goddesses. It is such a scene of rapture, that had that child of fancy, *Shakespeare*, beheld it, after such a voyage as ours, his descriptions and imagery would (if possible) have surpassed every thing he has given us,—for I may truly say with him,

“ The object and the pleasure of mine eye,

“ Is only *Helena*.—

Midsummer-night's Dream.”

The women are delicately fair, and in general ornamented with that hair given to *Venus* and the *Graces*:—from the bounties of the *China* gentlemen, their dresses have as much variety as the goldfinch,—and their behaviour amiable and endearing;—in one word, no man ever came to *St. Helena*, but left his heart with a nymph of the island:—their study is to make you happy while you continue with them, and their good sense, and elegance of manners, assure them success. You'll say I'm captivated from the raptures of my stile, was I not, I shall be a dull inanimate exception, where I would wish to be thought otherwise. I must confess here is a Miss G***ths surpasses all description,—a very *Calypso* to detain

tain a young *Telemachus*; and so entangle him in the web of love,—that it would require the art and knowledge of *Mentor* to disengage him:—alas! I hardly know how I shall escape; to be precipitated from the top of one of these rocks, would be a fall as fatal as *Sappho's*, ending at once all love and heart-ache, unless some *Minerva*, or guardian genius saved me, to prove *Cambray's Telemachus* as true as moral.

Yours, &c.

L E T T E R XVII.

To L. L. Esq.

St. Helena, June 6, 1755.

IF a man can be intoxicated without liquor, I certainly am; and as much over head and ears in love, as ever swimming *Læander* was with his fair *Hero*. I believe the philtrum operates so strongly to even make a rhymers of me, to make me even attempt a sonnet to my mistress' eye-brow.—I have heard them say, *Poeta nascitur non fit*,—but I believe love makes more men poets than nature;—the seeds of poetry would never rise in some bodies, were it not
for

for the fire of love ;—which plainly proves, without further altercation, love makes and conquers all. I shall not pretend, my friend, to give you examples of *Dan Cupid's* power from *Hercules* and *Omphale*, to this and *St. Helena* ;—but I shall swear you lose the delights of *Enna*,—and the charms of *Proserpine*, by not being here.—O was I *Dis*, to pluck the fairest flower that ever grew !—but she's a divinity, and will only be forced to what she likes.—Excuse me !—tea is ready ;—she makes it,—you shall have the rest to-morrow.

Would one imagine it in the power of evil to make such a revolution,—such a catastrophe in twenty-four hours ! O my friend, I am expelled Paradise : the sea is all before me where to roam.

—I'm cabin'd, —crib'd, —confin'd : alas, she's lost—and and all the world with her!—It is thus with all the transitory blessings of this life ; they are painted fair to leave a bitterer grief.—The tale is thus :—a ball was given by the rival of Miss G. to which all were invited but us ;—a sufficient cause to raise the indignation of beauty, when raised for me to resent it.—Love is blind.—She proposed I should write a pasquinade, and place it on the door of her house, *Scribere jussit amor*.—Love bid me write, and folly made me do it ;—Two *Urchins*, as powerful here, (where one would not think it worth their while to ramble) as in *England*. In the morning it was read and copied by all the town, and the bantling laid to me :—
a chal-

a challenge from her hero was what I expected—and what I wished,—to convince my love, what lives I'd risk to only die with her. The glove came :—we met, where she appeared more lovely than before ;—but alas, her tenderness destroyed my happiness ! She flew and acquainted my commander, (whose goodness was only inferior to her own) who was as assiduous to save me, as I to die for her. Thus, when ripe and ready to revenge her cause, I was secured,—born on ship board, and confined.—So the preserving my life, has preserved my misery. I now sit fighting to the rocks, and melancholy preying on my spirits.—I bid the gales speed my wishes to her ears !—but all, but grief avoid me.—The subsequent

lines I have sent her ; they are my first ;
and if they are poetry, remember love
made them. —

To Miss G**ths.

O, had you let me fought, and death my fate !
I had prefer'd it to this cruel state.

I'll bear a thousand racks, a thousand pains ;
To live with you upon your sea-girt plains.
Who would have thought your tenderness
could prove,

The greatest mis'ry to the man you love !
Oh had I died ! my griefs had ended there,
My tomb had leap'd for joy to catch your tear :
In joy I'd slept beneath your flow'ry sod,
And my poor ghost had kiss'd the ground you
trod.

I had been pity'd by the young and fair,
And had your daily morn and ev'ning pray'r :
A joy

A joy beyond what life can ever prove,
When torn from her,—from her I dearly love.

O, ever lovely, ever virtuous tell !

Cannot, O cannot we have one farewell ?

One kiss, one sigh, one mutual promise too,

One long embrace, one cruel last adieu ?

Curse on the power of man,—the force of
arms,

That can detain me from thy heav'nly charms !

Why this superiority, ye slaves ?

Why hold me here, ye tyrants of the waves ?

O had I Sampson's strength I'd force my way,

Or with me bury those who held my stay !

O let me try the deep ! e'en—there I can

Find with the fish a better friend than man !

Think ye that fish are half so hard as ye !

There's friendship 'mongst the monsters of
the sea.

Come

Come, painted Dolphin, spare thy gen'rous
aid,

And, like *Arion*, bear me to my maid :

See, where he comes ! blush, ye unfeeling
souls ;

He vows to swim me 'tween the distant poles.

The pigeons too—observe their feeling sense !

Offer their silver wings to wing me hence.

Monsters are gentle, kind ; but man, poor
fool,

Is grown a savage, having power to rule.

Then, since 'tis thus,—come hither fish, and
birds,

And jointly bear her—these last parting words.

“ Tell her I'll love her, while the clouds

“ drop rain,

“ Or while there's water in the pathless

“ main :

“ Tell

“ Tell her, I’ll love her ’till this life is o’er,

“ And then my ghost shall visit this sweet

“ shore :

“ Tell her, I only ask,—she’ll think of me,

“ I’ll love her while there’s salt within the sea:

“ Tell her all this ; tell her it o’er and o’er ;

“ The anchor’s weigh’d, or I would tell her

“ more.”

Farewell.

L E T-

L E T T E R XVIII.

To H. M. Esq.

Plymouth, August 2, 1755.

NOthing can be dearer to me than you, and the sight of my native country; and I flatter myself nothing can give you more pleasure than the news of our arrival. It would be the highest injustice in me not to embrace the earliest opportunity, to mention the kindnesses of captain Ward,—to whom I am so much indebted, that I could wish you would acknowledge my sense of his care and friendship. Our voyage has been quick and successful, tho'

tho' I think every thing at sea and on shore wear the air of war. We were four large ships in company, and richer far than strong, being weakly man'd, by deaths and desertions. We should have been a *douceur* for the French, and very easy prizes; but an English cruiser dispelled our fears, and conducted us under the shade of *Mount Edgcombe*, which has romantick beauties peculiar to itself,—and inferior to none.

The garden hangs upon a rock so high,
That looking down offends the aching eye :
In vain hoarse waves assail the pleasant seat,
Yet give a motion to the British fleet ;
Which, from the lofty mount, appear to be
Mere little cock-boats dancing on the sea.

There rolls the ocean,—where a hundred sail,
Steer diff'rent courses with the same fresh gale:
Like busy bees to various ports repair,
To get a cargo, or to leave one there.
On the left-hand's the dock, where hurry
 reigns,
And sounds of hammers clatter thro' the plains.
Some ships unrig'd, some rigging, and again
Some building, and some fit to try the main:
Some on their cruizes move with stately pride,
And guns and ports checquer the painted side:
Her canvass wings the gentle breezes court,
Firm as her noble crew she quits the port,
To fight her country's wrong,—and as she past,
From either side burst forth a horrid blast,
Of fire and smook, which such a thunder made,
That all but such a crew might be afraid:
The very atmosphere confess'd the roar,
Whilst she unshaken past the trembling shore.

These verses will confirm all your fears,
 —for in spite of advice, restraint, and
 threats, nature will prevail,—and I
 must be poetical in spite of my stars :
 for poetry is like oil in water,—ever at
 top : what will be the consequence,
 time will declare,—your dread is po-
 verty,—a dread I have little conception
 of, when I flatter myself with the grand
 prize in the *Heliconian* lottery. You
 will think I talk with too much poeti-
 cal confidence of myself : all poets are
 vain, and young ones most so,—but
 we are all more or less partial to the
 babes of our own brains,—not that I
 think I am sprung from the head of *Mi-
 nerva*, because she sprung from the head
 of her father :—no, I'm proud in be-
 ing her son,—who was happy in being

There rolls the ocean,—where a hundred sail,
 Steer diff'rent courses with the same fresh gale:
 Like busy bees to various ports repair,
 To get a cargo, or to leave one there.

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 From either side burst forth a horrid blast,
 Of fire and smোক, which such a thunder made,
 That all but such a crew might be afraid :
 The very atmosphere confess'd the roar,
 Whilst she unshaken past the trembling shore.

These

These verses will confirm all your fears,
 —for in spite of advice, restraint, and
 threats, nature will prevail,—and I
 must be poetical in spite of my stars :
 for poetry is like oil in water,—ever at
 top : what will be the consequence,
 time will declare,—your dread is po-
 verty,—a dread I have little conception
 of, when I flatter myself with the grand
 prize in the *Heliconian* lottery. You
 will think I talk with too much poeti-
 cal confidence of myself : all poets are
 vain, and young ones most so,—but
 we are all more or less partial to the
 babes of our own brains,—not that I
 think I am sprung from the head of *Mi-
 nerva*, because she sprung from the head
 of her father :—no, I'm proud in be-
 ing her son,—who was happy in being

sister to you. This is a pleasing theme to me, and more so when I recollect the little cautions and methods you made use of to divert me to some more useful study : how you discharged all poetry from your library, in hopes of extinguishing those sparks which had appeared so early ;—but the classical fuel given by the learned Dr. Cox *,

* This worthy gentleman kept the celebrated school at *Harrow*, but by an unhappy marriage one of his amiable daughters made, (unknown to the father) with Mr Pen, a youth under his care, incensed that family to ruin his school. — The young gentleman was sent to *Philadelphia*, nor never more permitted to see a wife he dearly loved :—a lady with every virtue and accomplishment.—These misfortunes brought Dr Cox to *Hampstead*, about the year 1749 ;—he afterwards moved to *Kensington*, where he died in the year 1757.

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in my scholastic hours, rather raised the flame than decreased it. And since I am resolved to tell you every thing, he often lamented your easy disposition in giving way to my juvenile desires of a sea life: for *me juvat ire per altum*, was all I writ and all I thought of. All boys, more or less, possess romantick ideas of ambition, and travels:—we are all *Don Quixote's* in our youth,—and all build castles in the air,—and these whimsical notions are often encreased by our first books: I must own the campaigns of *Charles XII.* debauched me to be as mad as himself.—The fatigues and dangers have not in the least altered my intentions of following a sea life; but there are other disagreeable circumstances which fulfil the

faying,—“ If he’s good for nothing,
 “ fend him to sea.” From such ex-
 pressions, one would imagine all sea-
 men were brutes, but we find it often
 contradicted by men of amiable cha-
 racters,—and much so in him I have
 the happiness to be placed with. Our
 ship at present is a perfect Indian mar-
 ket, the dealers continually going and
 coming, like industrious ants, laying
 up their winter’s store. You may be
 certain my venture is reserved for you,
 if it escapes the harpies of the customs ;
 for nothing can equal the happiness of
 presenting them to the best of parents.

Your’s, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R XIX.

To J. T. Esq;

Sterling Castle in the Downs, Nov. 1755.

I HAVE a thousand doubts whether you'll be pleased or dissatisfied with my conduct, when I tell you I have quitted penury and commerce, for arms and glory: but I am confident you cannot accuse me with inattention, when you find me but one week on shore after an India voyage. I know not what apology to make for so precipitate a change, unless a spirit of serving my country will admit of an excuse. Prizes are

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brought

brought in here every day, and we with a flying squadron, have traversed every drop of water between *Dover* and *Calais*, in full quest of flat-bottom'd boats,—tho' they are as far in the country, as you are in *Yorkshire*. Youth and good spirits will conquer the greatest difficulties; but the sea life is so opposite to human nature, that I am astonished so many engage in the pursuit, when so few approve it.—If I have met with one tar who was uneasy on shore, I have found thousands in a worse situation at sea. Besides the disagreeable circumstances and situations attending a subaltern officer in the navy, are so many and so hard, that had not the first men in the service passed the dirty road to preferment,

ment, to encourage the rest, they would renounce it to a man. It is a most mistaken notion, that a youth will not be a good officer unless he stoops to the most menial offices; to be beded worse than hogs, and eat less delicacies. In short, from having experienced such scenes of filth and infamy, such fatigues and hardships, they are sufficient to disgust the stoutest and the bravest:—for alas! there is only a little hope of promotion sprinkled in the cup, to make a man swallow more than he digests the rest of his life. The state of inferior officers in his majesty's service is a state of vassalage, and a lieutenant's preferment the greatest in it,—the change is at once from a filthy maggot to a shining butterfly: many methods

might be introduced to make the lower officers of more consequence on their duty, and their lives more agreeable to themselves:—for that power of reducing them to sweep the decks, being lodged in the breast of a captain, is often abused through passion or caprice: besides, it is too despotick an authority to exercise on a man, who has the feelings of an Englishman: we are likewise to recollect, that all commanders of men of war are not gentlemen nor men of education.—I know a great part are brave men, but a much greater seamen. I allow the maxim of learning to obey, before we command ourselves: but still there is no reason to be vulgar; for we are to consider these young people are the active machines
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of duty, the wheels which give motion to the main body,—and it is absolutely necessary to give them authority in their office, to carry on the duties of the ship,—but rendering them low in the eyes of the people, creates a contempt for midshipmen in general, and turns that necessary respect due to them into contempt.—I propose to warrant this body of volunteers, and make them answer to the board of admiralty for their conduct: they should possess a third table in the ship, and have the countenance of their superiors: this would enliven their servitude, and make them of consequence on their duty. The command of a lieutenant is great, and on his watch he too often breaks through the bounds of good manners
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and decency : it is a power so extensive, that when placed in the breast of a weak man, may be greatly abused : tho' there is already such a reformation in the British navy, as would even remove those satyrical epithets so generally made use of to their disrepute. The last war, a chaw of tobacco, a ratan, and a rope of oaths, were sufficient *qualifications* to constitute a lieutenant : but now, education and good manners are the study of all ; and so far from effeminacy, that I am of opinion the present race of officers will as much eclipse the veterans of 1692, as the polite, the vulgar. My intention of giving these hints, are for the benefit of my cousin, who is determined on this life. He may depend on it, I will not
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omit a circumstance for his advantage, but make a fair side of debtor and creditor. I shall give him a letter of advice for his conduct.—which I hope will convince him how truly I am his friend, and

Your's, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R XX.

To J. T. Junior.

Portsmouth, May 21, 1756.

THIS day we have declared war against the French, a war, which I hope may prove glorious to my country, and honourable to the navy. I find you are absolutely determined to follow a sea life, I therefore beg your attention to the subsequent advice, for your service and future conduct.

You now live under the care and protection of a most indulgent parent, where you enjoy all the blessings this world can afford, and his paternal affection:

fection: these you must lose immediately on your launching into the sea service, and tho' a youth, you will be under the necessity of commencing your own guardian. Here are no back doors through which you can make your escape, nor any humane bosoms to alleviate your feelings; at once you resign a good table for no table, and a good bed for your length and breadth: nay, it will be thought an indulgence too, to let you sleep where day ne'er enters, and where fresh air only comes when forced. You must get up every four hours,—for they never forget to call you, tho' you may forget to rise; but when you begin, I wish you to be vigilant and active. Your light for day and night is a small candle, which is
often

often stuck at the side of your platter at meals, for want of a better convenience : your victuals are salt, and often bad, and if you vary the mode of dressing them, you must cook yourself : I would recommend you always to have tea and sugar ;—the rest you must trust to, for you'll scarce find room for any more than your chest and hammock, and the latter at times you must carry upon deck to defend you from small shot, unless you keep one of the sailors in fee with a little brandy, (which is a good friend at sea) but always drink it mixed with water. In the most inclement weather, you are the most required as an example, and to see the duty properly executed, you must be at the extreme parts of the

masts and yards. When you begin, be resolute and persevere, but consider it well before you engage, for these are only faint sketches, when compared with the reality.

The two first rules I would have you observe, are these: first, Avoid low company: secondly, Hold-fast! One is material for the preservation of the soul, the other of the body. Low company is the most fatal rock to a young mariner, and nothing can save you from it but a necessary pride, which must be supported in spite of all the lures thrown out by vice, to corrupt and debauch you: you'll find it a noble conquest, and by avoiding it, obtain the esteem of your superiors, and the respect of inferiors; nothing can recom-

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mend and promote you so soon: and on the other hand, nothing so soon degrade and ruin you. Low company is the bane of all young men, but in a man of war, you have the collected filths of jails: condemned criminals have the alternative of hanging, or entering on board. There's not a vice committed on shore, but is practised here; the scenes of horror and infamy on board of a man of war, are so many and so great, that I think they must rather disgust a good mind, than allure it. I do not mean, by this advice, to have you appear a dull inactive being, that shudders amidst these horrors; no, I would wish you to see them in their own proper shapes,—for to be hated they need but to be seen: pass thro' them

them with vivacity, but never let them lay hold of you. You will find some little outward appearance of religion, —and Sunday prayers!—but the congregation is generally drove together by the boatswain, (like sheep by the shepherd) who neither spares oaths or blows. In spite of all these you may be good, your church and religion must be in your own breast,—and tho' every thing is in hurry and noise, yet you may always have time enough to address a supreme BEING, with all that fervency of soul the good seek him with: and in such a miserable situation of trial,—how glorious the conquest! Put all your trust and confidence in God, for no principles but those of religion, are sufficient to constitute a

great man ; for believe me, in various situations of a sea life, you'll find your own strength but feeble ; and if you depend on Heaven, Heaven will never disown you. Supposing you possess a natural courage, you'll find that courage a brutal one, when carried into wrath and revenge : a practical courage is the best, and a courage of that kind must be obtained by good acts, experience, and a perfect reliance upon God. You know you set out with the ambitious hope of commanding ; consequently, when you obtain that preferment, you must possess ability superior to those you govern, which can only be attained by integrity of heart, study, manners, sobriety, diligence, and experience.

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The studies I would have you pursue before you leave home, are these: a sufficient knowledge of your own language, to speak it politely, and write it correctly, which cannot be attained without some Latin; and when you've once got the rudiments of that language, you will find leisure time enough on board to make yourself more perfect. Of the living languages apply yourself the first to French; it is universally spoke and understood, and will give you a superiority wherever you go. Never be bashful, but speak it with confidence upon all occasions: no man ever spoke it fluently at first; it must be time and use which can perfect a work of that nature. If you have opportunity, learn likewise the Spanish

and Italian : if mathematicks draw your attention more, don't skim along the surface, but dive to the very bottom; for the sea service may be productive of many useful discoveries for the good of navigation in general, and for your own pleasure, honour, and emolument. But, to qualify you sufficiently for a seamen, you will find the theory, as taught in schools, enough for your purpose, and the practical part will be soon accomplished at sea, unless that part which depends on experience ;—for 'tis a just observation, that a sailor has always something to learn,—every voyage producing new circumstances.—Drawing, fortification, surveying coasts, and harbours, are most necessary qualifications ; and for more light accom-

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plish-

plishments, fencing and dancing. Musical instruments are sufficiently tormented in all ships ; I would have you leave them for books.—All these should be attained before fifteen, (unless you go to Portsmouth academy) for you must serve six years before you are entitled to an examination at the Navy-Office, to qualify you for the rank of lieutenant or master : twenty or twenty-one, is as soon as I would wish you to take the charge of a watch : to conduct yourself well in that circle requires great abilities and attention. It is a mistaken notion, that any blockhead will make a seaman :—yet, I confess, there are many men of illiberal parts who call themselves seamen, as any

other occupation can boast of. In short, it is so diametrically opposite, that I don't know one situation in life, that requires so accomplished an education, as the sea officer. To shine in the character, (which we hope every man has ambition enough to wish) he should be a man of letters and languages, a mathematician, and an accomplished gentleman. The variety of countries he visits, the numbers he has to govern, and the long absence from the female world, give him more occasion for a good education, than any other employ. The army is an academy,—the sea makes mankind as boisterous as the very element ; therefore they require more ; for the least acquaintance with
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the liberal sciences, softens the manners of men, and makes them less savage.

—Ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes
Emollit mores, nec finit esse feros.

Your's, &c.

L E T T E R XXI.

To J. T. Junior.

Torbay, June 19, 1756.

WE are now going down the British Channel with money and troops for the continent of *North America*;—but before we depart, I beg your attention a little longer.—In my last, I pointed out to you a plan of education, and the fatal consequences of low company. I now recommend you to avoid sleep and indolence when your watch is expired, which are practised by those who have neither ability or attention to amuse themselves by more improving

ing studies. In such intervals, I would have you pursue your scholastic education: in your journal delineate the head lands and coasts you see,—with their bearings and distances, and all other observations that may occur; for you cannot make too many, in order to acquire the character of an able seaman. Every day observe the ship's run on some Mercator's chart, the variation of the compass, the setting of currents, &c. &c. but I would rather have you project a map for that purpose:—besides taking off the common daily occurrences of the log-board, keep an historical journal, after the manner of our best voyages: in which insert the description of places, the manners, customs, habits, languages,

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worship, and policy of men; the produce, culture, and manufactory of each country; the curiosities, phenomena, birds, beasts, fish, vegetables, and minerals of each place, &c. &c. From such observations, we have collected our histories of foreign countries, and tho' they be ever so puerile; you can correct and embellish them in maturer years; the observations which strike you will be ever good and true; for an elegance of writing must arise from polite converse, experience, and reading.—As you will be much distressed for room on ship-board, and your library a moving one,—you must endeavour to have it small and select. The books I recommend you to study in the Latin, are,—Erasmus, Cicero, Justin, Terence,

Terence, Virgil, Ovid, and Horace. In the French, Les Revolutions D'Angleterre par le Pere D'Orleans, Cyrus, Telemachque, Les Revolutions Romain, Lettres de Rabutin, Histoire de Charles XII. Roi de Suede, Boileau, et Moliere. In the Spanish, you will do well, to read *well*, the agreeable Vida y hechos del ingenioso Cavallero Don Quixote. In English, the History of your own Country, the Spectators and Tatlers, the Lives of the most eminent men, (whose great and good actions ever keep before you ; do not trust them to memory, but keep a book for the insertion of all those historical noble passages that please, which will be a means of ever retaining them.) In poetry, Dryden, Spencer, Otway,

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Prior,

Prior, Gay, Swift, Pope, Milton, and the Bible, which I wish to be last read, to be better understood :—for nothing certainly can be so absurd as to hear an old country dame teaching children what she don't understand herself ; from the methods which are thus pursued, neither the Bible is comprehended nor admired, tho' the noblest poem in the English language. We have likewise a variety of books of morality, and the best sermons are Tillotson's, Barrow's, and Atterbury's. I would likewise have you apply yourself to the pleasing study of *Natural Philosophy*, proceeding leisurely from the history of meteors, minerals, plants, and living creatures, as far as Anatomy. I hope, from these few epistolary hints,

you

you will receive some advantage, and if you practise them, be assured you will be an honour to the navy. It is now the happy taste of the present age, to admire men of erudition and manners; as a proof, we are presented with many of the *nobility*. To say we did not navigate and fight our ships well in the reign of Queen ELIZABETH, would be an untruth; but from that age to this, we have been as unpolished and rough as the element. It will bear no kind of argument to advance, that ignorance can act better than accomplished knowledge. I will venture to say, that the gentlemen of the navy will bring more laurels to their country, than were ever brought in any former

mer time.—My last advice is, not to be too hasty in your choice of companions, nor to be captivated with the outward appearances of mankind, and smooth flattering speeches; act always upon the reserve before a stranger; sift and canvass him well, before you take him to your bosom; preserve a secret when entrusted to you, tho' of the most trifling consequence: accustom yourself to it, for he that betrays his friend, deserves to be betrayed: be very slow to give offence, and when really injur'd, act with fortitude: be ready to forgive, and endeavour to forget the errors of others: be rather prone to praise than censure: be warm on a man's virtues, and silent on his follies: tell the

the truth upon all occasions, fallacious equivocations are stabs to a man's character: never drink to excess, nor let crimes committed in liquor pass unnoticed: observe the medium between penury and profuseness, and shun gaming, like a sunken rock. These will prevent impositions, for on board of a ship, you must be prepared against the sensible pleasant villain, and the low thief. Cherish the brave and honest; for in the navy you will find many worth your warmest friendship. These paths lead to a steep ascent, but when you gain the summit, you will look down with pleasure on your conquest, finding yourself at once a comfort to your parents, a friend to society, an honour to the navy, and a glory to your country.

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country. Applaud the sensible gentleman whenever and wherever you meet him, and despise the dissolute and abandoned with,

Your sincere friend, &c.

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The End of the First Volume.

